

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A computer-implemented method of exporting at least some of a body of data into
2 a dump file, said method comprising the steps of:
3 subdividing the body of data into a plurality of subsets;
4 storing metadata descriptive of the body of data in the dump file; and
5 storing one or more selected subsets from among the plurality of subsets in the dump
6 file by performing the following steps for each of the one or more selected
7 subsets:
8 (a) storing a marker descriptive of said selected subset in the dump file, and
9 (b) storing data contained in said selected subset in the dump file.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of subdividing the body of data into a
2 plurality of subsets includes the step of subdividing the body of data into the plurality of
3 subsets based on time-related information contained in the body of data.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of subdividing the body of data into a
2 plurality of subsets includes the step of subdividing the body of data into the plurality of
3 subsets based on serial information contained in the body of data.

1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of subdividing the body of data into the
2 plurality of subsets based on serial information contained in the body of data includes the
3 step of subdividing the body of data into the plurality of subsets based on numerical
4 information contained in the body of data.

1 5. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of subdividing the body of data into the
2 plurality of subsets based on serial information contained in the body of data includes the
3 step of subdividing the body of data into the plurality of subsets alphabetically based on
4 textual information contained in the body of data.

1 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of storing the plurality of
2 subsets in respective storage devices.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing metadata descriptive of the
2 body of data in the dump file includes the step of storing partitioning metadata
3 descriptive of how the body of data is subdivided into said plurality of subsets.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing a marker descriptive of said
2 selected subset in the dump file includes the step of storing a name of said selected subset
3 in the dump file.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing data contained in said selected
2 subset in the dump file includes the step of storing said data contained in selected subset
3 in the dump file immediately after storing the subset marker in the dump file.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing one or more selected subsets
2 from among the plurality of subsets in the dump file includes the step of storing a single
3 selected subset from among the plurality of subsets in the dump file.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing one or more selected subsets
2 from among the plurality of subsets in the dump file includes the step of storing a fewer
3 number of selected subsets than the number of the plurality of subsets in the dump file.

TOP SECRET

1 12. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of granting permission to a
2 user to export said body of data.

1 13. A computer-implemented method of importing data into a body of data
2 comprising the steps of:
3 accessing a dump file containing one or more subset markers descriptive of a
4 respective subset of the data, each of said one or more subset markers associated
5 with data belonging to the respective subset;
6 determining whether a marker of said one or more subset markers is descriptive of a
7 selected subset; and
8 if the marker of said one or more subset markers is descriptive of the selected subset,
9 then importing the data associated with the subset marker into the body of data.

1 14. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of subdividing the body of
2 data into a plurality of subsets according to partitioning criteria;
3 wherein the step of importing the data associated with the subset marker into the body
4 of data includes the step of importing the data into subsets of the table according
5 to said partitioning criteria.

1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the step of the step of subdividing the body of
2 data into a plurality of subsets according to partitioning criteria includes the steps of:
3 accessing metadata stored in the dump file descriptive of said partitioning criteria;
4 and
5 creating the partitioned table based on the metadata.

1 16. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of importing the data associated with
2 the subset marker into the body of data includes the step of storing the data associated the
3 subset marker into a respective storage device.

1 17. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of granting permission to a
2 user to import into said body of data.

1 18. A computer-implemented method of repartitioning a body of data, subdivided
2 into a plurality of subsets, comprising the steps of:
3 exporting one or more selected subsets from among the plurality of subsets of the
4 body of data into a dump file;
5 reconfiguring the body of data according to new partitioning criteria; and
6 importing data exported into the dump file into the body of data according to said
7 new partitioning criteria.

1 19. The method of claim 18, the step of exporting one or more selected subsets from
2 among the plurality of subsets of the body of data into a dump file includes the steps of:
3 storing metadata descriptive of the body of data in the dump file; and
4 storing the one or more selected subsets in the dump file by performing the following
5 steps for each of the one or more selected subsets:
6 (a) storing a marker descriptive of said selected subset in the dump file, and
7 (b) storing data contained in said selected subset in the dump file.

1 20. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of storing metadata descriptive of the
2 body of data in the dump file includes the step of storing partitioning metadata
3 descriptive of how the body of data is subdivided into said plurality of subsets.

109740-03548800

1 21. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of storing a marker descriptive of said
2 selected subset in the dump file includes storing a name of said selected subset in the
3 dump file.

1 22. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of storing data contained in said
2 selected subset in the dump file includes the step of storing said data contained in
3 selected subset in the dump file immediately after storing the subset marker in the dump
4 file.

1 23. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of storing one or more selected subsets
2 from among the plurality of subsets in the dump file includes the step of storing a single
3 selected subset from among the plurality of subsets in the dump file.

1 24. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of storing one or more selected subsets
2 from among the plurality of subsets in the dump file includes the step of storing a fewer
3 number of selected subsets than the number of the plurality of subsets in the dump file.

1 25. The method of claim 19, further comprising the steps of:
2 granting permission to a user to export from said body of data; and
3 granting permission to the user to import into said body of data.

1 26. A computer-readable medium bearing sequences of instructions for exporting at
2 least some of a body of data into a dump file, said sequences of instructions comprising
3 sequences of instructions for performing the steps of:
4 subdividing the body of data into a plurality of subsets;
5 storing metadata descriptive of the body of data in the dump file; and

1094948350

6 storing one or more selected subsets from among the plurality of subsets in the dump
7 file by performing the following steps for each of the one or more selected
8 subsets:
9 (a) storing a marker descriptive of said selected subset in the dump file, and
10 (b) storing data contained in said selected subset in the dump file.

1 27. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the step of subdividing the
2 body of data into a plurality of subsets includes the step of subdividing the body of data
3 into the plurality of subsets based on time-related information contained in the body of
4 data.

1 28. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the step of subdividing the
2 body of data into a plurality of subsets includes the step of subdividing the body of data
3 into the plurality of subsets based on serial information contained in the body of data.

1 29. The computer-readable medium of claim 28, wherein the step of subdividing the
2 body of data into the plurality of subsets based on serial information contained in the
3 body of data includes the step of subdividing the body of data into the plurality of subsets
4 based on numerical information contained in the body of data.

1 30. The computer-readable medium of claim 28, wherein the step of subdividing the
2 body of data into the plurality of subsets based on serial information contained in the
3 body of data includes the step of subdividing the body of data into the plurality of subsets
4 alphabetically based on textual information contained in the body of data.

1 31. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the step of storing metadata
2 descriptive of the body of data in the dump file includes the step of storing partitioning
3 metadata descriptive of how the body of data is subdivided into said plurality of subsets.

1 32. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the step of storing a marker
2 descriptive of said selected subset in the dump file includes the step of storing a name of
3 said selected subset in the dump file.

1 33. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the step of storing data
2 contained in said selected subset in the dump file includes the step of storing said data
3 contained in selected subset in the dump file immediately after storing the subset marker
4 in the dump file.

1 34. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the step of storing one or
2 more selected subsets from among the plurality of subsets in the dump file includes the
3 step of storing a single selected subset from among the plurality of subsets in the dump
4 file.

1 35. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the step of storing one or
2 more selected subsets from among the plurality of subsets in the dump file includes the
3 step of storing a fewer number of selected subsets than the number of the plurality of
4 subsets in the dump file.

1 36. A computer-readable medium bearing sequences of instructions for importing
2 data into a body of data, said sequences of instructions comprising sequences of
3 instructions for performing the steps of:

2025-05-28 10:55:00

37. The computer-readable medium of claim 36, wherein said sequences of instructions further comprising sequences of instructions for performing the step of subdividing the body of data into a plurality of subsets according to partitioning criteria; wherein the step of importing the data associated with the subset marker into the body of data includes the step of importing the data into subsets of the table according to said partitioning criteria.

gdd
A2

add_{B1} → add_{C2} → add_{D2}